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# **COBGDB - The GnuCOBOL TUI DEBUGGER / ANIMATOR**

HOW TO USE COBGDB



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### 1. Introduction

COBGDB is a TUI (Text User Interface) application, programmed in C, designed to assist in animate and debugging GnuCOBOL code **using GDB**.

The project is hosted at <a href="https://github.com/marcsosduma/cobgdb">https://github.com/marcsosduma/cobgdb</a>

Very important: you don't need to know GDB and all its many commands
(https://www.sourceware.org/gdb/).

COBGDB has its own user interface that is very simple to use
and is responsible for interfacing the underlying GDB which is the real debug and animate engine
but operates practically in a transparent and invisible way for the user.

The COBGDB application is based on the extension for Visual Studio Code (VSCode) created by Oleg Kunitsyn, which can be found on GitHub: <a href="https://github.com/OlegKunitsyn/gnucobol-debug">https://github.com/OlegKunitsyn/gnucobol-debug</a>. warning: COBGDB is still currently under development.

At https://github.com/marcsosduma/cobgdb in the Windows subdirectory, the executable program cobgdb.exe for this operating system is available and ready to use.

To compile COBGDB from C source code on Windows, you can use MinGW.

The Makefile is configured to generate the program cobgdb.exe for both Windows and Linux.

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# 1.1. Installing the debugger on Windows

On Windows, just download cobgdb.exe from following folder: https://github.com/marcsosduma/cobgdb/tree/main/windows.

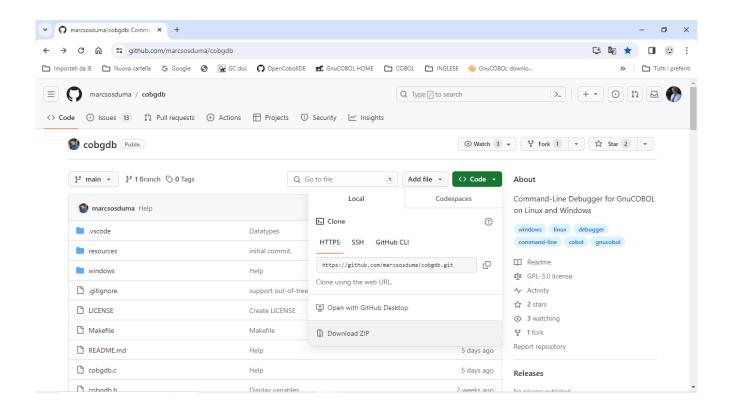
As an example you can put cobgdb.exe into the "bin" folder of your GnuCOBOL installation (the same folder where the GnuCOBOL compiler cobc.exe is located)

or

first install MinGW (Minimalist GNU for Windows).

Then execute the make ('mingw32-make' for Windows) command to compile the code from C source.

Then unzip the file and copy cobgdb.exe to the "bin" folder of your GnuCOBOL installation (the same folder where the GnuCOBOL compiler cobc.exe is located)



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# 1.2. Compile and Debug GnuCOBOL programs

Compile and run a debugging session of the sample program using the following command:

### cobgdb customer.cob -x -lpdcurses

Source code of customer.cob used also for following tutorial is at: https://github.com/marcsosduma/cobgdb/tree/main/windows

Note: '-lpdcurses' is an instance of an argument that can be indirectly passed to 'cobc' by 'cobgdb,' even if it is not used by 'cobgdb' itself.

or, other example for cobc parameters, use: cobgdb customer.cob -x -Tcustomer.txt (-T creates a compilation list output into customer.txt file)

COBGDB takes one or more programs with COB or CBL extension as parameters and runs the GnuCOBOL compiler with the following format:

```
cobc -g -fsource-location -ftraceall -v -free -00 -x prog.cob prog2.cob ...
```

To debug multiple programs, use COBGDB with the following syntax:

### cobgdb prog.cob subprog1.cob subprog2.cob . . .

This will create a single prog.exe executable.

You can run GDB/GDBSERVER remotely using the "A" (Attach) key.

COBGDB will prompt you to provide the server and port in the format server: port or the PID of the application.

# Example:

- localhost: 5555
- 9112

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# 1.3. Main Commands

Cmd		Description
?	Help	Show the HELP window and text
R	Run	Runs the program from the first Cobol statement until a breakpoint is encountered.  Always use this command to start a debugging session.
В	Breakpoint	Toggle (Set or Unset) a breakpoint at a specific line of the Procedure Division code.
С	Cursor	Runs the program until it reaches the selected line.
N	Next	Runs the program until the next line but does not enter a subroutine executed by CALL or PERFORM.
S	Step	Runs the program until the next line. If needed it enter a subroutine executed by CALL or PERFORM.
G	Go	Continues the program execution until it encounters a stopping point: a breakpoint, end of the program, or the return from a subroutine (PERFORM / CALL).
J	Jump	Ask for a line number and Runs the program until it reaches that line.
V	Variables	Displays a window with a list of all variables for the running program.  From this window you can also change the value of one or more variables.
Н	sHow	Displays a window with a list of variables from the selected line. From this window you can also edit / change the value of variables from the selected line.
F	File	When cobgdb is executed with more than one program, allows selecting one of those source file to manage debugging commands.
Α	Attach	Attach to GDBSERVER or Application PID.
W	Window size	Switch between two window size of the debugger : 24 x 80 or 34 x 132.
Q	Quit	Quits (ends) the debugging session and the program (or programs).

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# 2. Tutorial - Sample Debugging Session

Following tutorial is on a Windows 10 platform using follwing version of GnuCOBOL:

```
cobc (GnuCOBOL) 3.2.0

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This is free software; see the source for copying conditions. There is NO

warranty; not even for MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

Written by Keisuke Nishida, Roger While, Ron Norman, Simon Sobisch, Edward Hart

Built Jul 28 2023 16:07:38

Packaged Jul 28 2023 16:58:47 UTC

C version (MinGW) "13.1.0"
```

Downloaded from https://www.arnoldtrembley.com/GnuCOBOL.htm

```
===== Version 3.2 =====
```

**GnuCOBOL 3.2 (28Jul2023) MSYS2 64-bit** <u>GC32M-BDB-x64.7z</u> -- MSYS2 64-bit GnuCOBOL 3.2 Final release **with full debugging support**. (95.4 Megabytes).

**GnuCOBOL 3.2 (28Jul2023) MSYS2 32-bit** GC32M-BDB-x32.7z -- MSYS2 32-bit GnuCOBOL 3.2 Final release with full debugging support. (96.1 Megabytes).

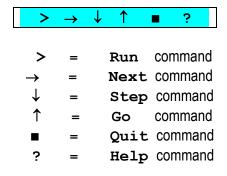
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After executing **cobgdb customer.cob** -x -lpdcurses the application automatically insert a Breakpoint at first executable program statement of PROCEDURE DIVISON (see the symbol at left of line 103 in this sample) and displays following screen:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
COBGDB
                           GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
 100
                       10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 101
 102
 103
 104
 105
 106
 108
 109
                          WS_NUMR FRO
 110
                          WS-NUMC012 FR
                  PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
 112
                            "MENU" TO WS-OP
 113
                             CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS
 114
 115
                                   TO WS-CHOICE
                               SS-CLS
                              SS-MENU
                       EVALUATE TRUE
                           WHEN E-INCLUDE
     -AWORK/customer.cob
```

You can scroll the source code window with cursor keys UP and DOWN, PG UP and PG DOWN or with mouse wheel or with mouse left click on the right scroll bar. Use cursor RIGHT and cursor LEFT to scroll horizontally,

In the upper right window corner there is a "button bar" where you can find some buttons (symbols):



when you hover over one of these symbol, you get the corresponding command description (like a tooltip) displayed at the bottom left of the screen.

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# 2.1. Help Command

Type ? (key) HELP command or left click with mouse on the ? button:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                                                                                                               COBGDB
                              GNUCOBOL GDB Interpreter
10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  100
  101
  102
 103
                  001-START.
                                               'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS' TO 'Y'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  104
  105
  106
                                  "SYSTEM"
"SYSTEM"
  107
  108
                        ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
ACCEPT WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  109
  110
                        PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
  111
                        PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
  112
  113
                                     "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS *> WS-STATUS
  114
                              MOVE SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
  115
  116
                              DISPLAY SS-CLS
  117
                              ACCEPT SS-MENU
  118
                              EVALUATE TRUE
  119
  120
                                    WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
```

the HELP window is displayed

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
COBGDB
                          GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
                     10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 100
 101
 102
 103
             001-START.
                 SET ENVIRONMENT 'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS' TO 'Y'
 104
 10 COBGDB HELP
 10
                           COBGDB - Commands
 10
 10
    B - Breakpoint: toggles the breakpoint at the current selected line
                                                                                ATU
         (can also be done with the mouse).
 10
 11
 11
         is encountered.
 11
    C - Cursor or Continue: runs the program until it reaches the
 11
         selected line.
 11
    J - Jump: runs the program until it reaches the specified line.
 11
        Next: runs the program until the next line but does not enter
 11
 117
                     ACCEPT SS-MENU
 118
 119
                     EVALUATE TRUE
 120
                         WHEN E-INCLUDE
 :/GC-AWORK/customer.cob
```

scroll the Help window with cursor keys UP and DOWN or mouse wheel.

Use ESC or Enter or left click to exit from this HELP window and return to debugging session.

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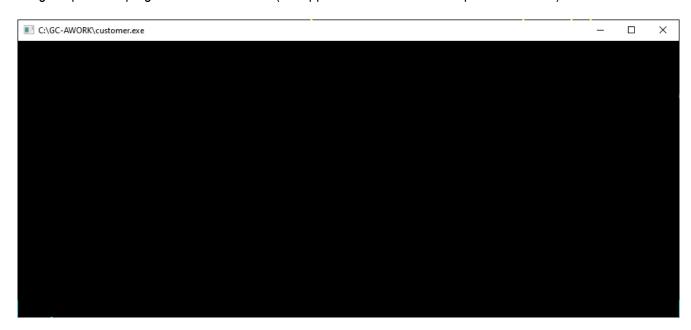
#### 2.2. Run Command

To start executing the program and the debugging session from first program statement you always must use the "R" command (key) or left click with mouse on the 

Run button

```
П
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                              GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 COBGDB
  100
  102
                  PROCEDURE DIVISION.
 103
                  001-START.
                                               'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS' TO 'Y'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  104
  105
  106
                                  "SYSTEM"
  107
  108
                        ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
ACCEPT WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  109
  110
  111
                        PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
                        PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
  112
  113
                                     "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS *> WS-STATUS
  114
                             MOVE SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
  115
                              DISPLAY SS-CLS
  116
  117
                              ACCEPT SS-MENU
  118
                              EVALUATE TRUE
  119
  120
                                   WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
```

cobgdb opens the program terminal window (the application will run in this separate window.).



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go back to the COBGDB screen, and you see a green symbol on the left of statement where initial B Breakpoint is present (in our example is at line 103 B>103 ):

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                             GNUCOBOL GDB Interpreter
10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
COBGDB
  100
  101
  102
 103
                                              COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
JSING "chcp 437" WS-ST
  104
  105
  106
  107
                                                       'mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  108
  109
  110
                                 WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  111
                       PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
  112
                                     MENU" TO WS-OP
CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS
  113
  114
  115
                                             TO WS-CHOICE
  116
                                        SS-CLS
                             ACCEPT SS-MENU
  118
  119
                             EVALUATE TRUE
                                  WHEN E-INCLUDE
      -AWORK/customer.cob
```

From that moment on, you can use all the commands (keys) or corresponding buttons to "animate" and debug the application, example: "**S**" (Step), "**N**" (Next), "**G**" (Go) and so on.

During the source code animation, the debugger automatically shows some pop-up windows with variables content from the line in execution.

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# 2.3. Step Command

Proceed with **S** (Step) command or left click with mouse the 

↓ button:.

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
COBGDB
                                   GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  100
                             10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  101
  102
 >103
  104
                                               COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS
                                             COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS TO Y
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  105
  106
                       *>CALL "SYSTEM"
  107
  108
                       ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
  109
                       ACCEPT WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  110
                       PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS *> WS-STATUS
  111
  112
  113
  114
                             MOVE SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
  115
                             DISPLAY SS-CLS
  116
                                       SS-MENU
  117
  118
  119
                             EVALUATE TRUE
  120
                                  WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
```

the **>104** green symbol now is on the following line 104:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                                GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
COBGDB
  100
                           10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 101
 102
 103
                001-START.
 104
                                                                          TO Y
                                         'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
 105
 106
 107
 108
                     ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
ACCEPT WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
 109
 110
                     PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
 111
                     PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
 112
 113
                                 "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS *> WS-STATUS
 114
 115
                          MOVE SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
 116
                          DISPLAY SS-CLS
 117
                           ACCEPT SS-MENU
 118
 119
                           EVALUATE TRUE
 120
                               WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
Debugging
                     - File: "COBGDB-GnuCOBOL-DEBUGGER-V05-20240501.odt" -
```

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Now you can proceed with S command or N command or as an example:

- Scroll with cursor down to select line 116 of Procedure Division and type "B" (to set a Breakpoint), (you also can simply click with mouse left button on the 116 row number)
- The application displays a **"B"** on the left of the line (type B again or re-click when you want to delete the Breakpoint, not do that at this moment)

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
COBGDB
                                   GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  100
                             10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  101
  102
                 001-START.
 103
                                              'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
 104
  105
  106
                                                       chcp 437"
  107
                                              USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  108
                        ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
ACCEPT WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  109
  110
                       PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
  111
                       PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT

MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP

MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS

MOVE SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
  112
  113
114
  115
                                       SS-CLS
  116
                             ACCEPT SS-MENU
  117
  118
                             EVALUATE TRUE
                                  WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
reakpoint
```

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#### 2.4. Go Command

Type **G** (Go) or left click with mouse the button to execute the program until a B Breakpoint is detected: the system reach the second breakpoint at line 116 and displays a green symbol to the left of the line to be executed, see following screen:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                                                                                                              COBGDB
                                    GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  100
                              10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  101
  102
                  001-START.
  103
  104
                                                 'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS' TO
                                                'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS TO Y
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  105
  106
  108
                        ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
ACCEPT WS_NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  109
  110
  111
                        PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
                        PERFORM 007 OF EN TIEES

PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT

MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP

MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS
                                                                                      WS-STATUS-
  112
  113
                                                                                       'CHOOSE AN OPTION"
  114
  115
                                               TO WS-CHOICE
  116
                              ACCEPT SS-MENU
  117
                                                                                     WS-MODULE
  118
                                                                                                         MENU"
                              EVALUATE TRUE
  119
                                                                                       CUSTOMERS -
                                    WHEN E-INCLUDE
   GC-AWORK/customer.cob
ebugging
```

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#### 2.5. Show Command

typing the 'H' command (key) allows you to view the variables on the highlighted line.

```
■ D:\codigo_C\cobgdb2\cobgdb.exe
                                                                                                            COBGDB
                                   GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  102
                              10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  103
  104
                  PROCEDURE DIVISION.
  105
                  001-START.
                                               'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
  106
  107
  108
  109
              Show Line Variables-
  110
  111
               -Implicit FILLER:
-Implicit FILLER:
-Implicit FILLER:
-Implicit FILLER:
-SS-STATUS:
  112
  113
  114
                                                                                                       ENU"
  115
                -SS-STATUS:
  116
  117
118
                -Implicit FILLER:
  119
                             ACCEPT SS-MENU
                                                                                   WS-STATUS
"CHOOSE AN OPTION"
  120
                             EVALUATE TRU
  121
                                   WHEN E-INCLUDE
                                         PERFORM 002-INCLUDE THRU 002
  /codigo_C/cobgdb2/customer.cob
     Edit variable
```

Display the content of variables also clicking right mouse button on a source line, example click right mouse button on line 116 will execute the H command on that line and give you:

```
D:\codigo_C\cobgdb2\cobgdb.exe
COBGDB
                               GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  102
103
                          10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
                PROCEDURE DIVISION.
  104
  105
                001-START.
                                          'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
  106
  107
  108
  109
            Show Line Variables
  110
               WS-STATUS: "CHOOSE AN OPTION
  111
  112
113
                                                                                            ENU"
                     PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-0
  114
  115
                                         TO WS-OP
  116
                                                         TO WS-STATUS
  117
                                             WS-CHOICE
                          DISPLAY SS-CLS
  118
                                   SS-MENU
  119
                          EVALUATE
                                                                          120
  121
                               WHEN E-INCLUDE
                                    PERFORM 002-INCLUDE THRU 002
  /codigo_C/cobgdb2/customer.cob
    Edit variable
```

Now at lower left line on screen is a message: E = Edit (change) the variable value.

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#### 2.5.1. Edit subCommand

Scroll with cursor key UP and DOWN (or with mouse wheel). to select one of the variable.

The key **E** can be used to edit the content of the highlighted variable.

Change the value and type Enter to confirm canges or use ESC to exit without changes:

```
D:\codigo_C\cobgdb2\cobgdb.exe
                                                                                                COBGDB
                                GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  102
103
                          10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  104
  105
                001-START.
                                          'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
  106
  107
  108
  109
            -Edit Variable-
  110
               -STATUS: Example of variable editing
  111
                                                                                            ENU"
  112
113
                     PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-0
  114
  115
                                         TO WS-OP
  116
                          MOVE
                                                         TO WS-STATUS
  117
                                             WS-CHOICE
                          DISPLAY SS-CLS
  118
  119
                          ACCEPT SS-MENU
                          EVALUATE
                                                                          120
                               WHEN E-INCLUDE
  121
  122
                                    PERFORM 002-INCLUDE THRU 002
  /codigo_C/cobgdb2/customer.cob
```

#### Resulting:

```
■ D:\codigo_C\cobgdb2\cobgdb.exe
                                                                                                      П
COBGDB
                                 GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  102
                            10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  103
  104
                 PROCEDURE DIVISION.
  105
                 001-START.
                      SET ENVIRONMENT
                                            'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
  106
  107
  108
  109
             Show Line Variables
  110
  111
               -WS-STATUS:
                               'Example of variable editing
                                                                                                 ENU"
  112
113
                      PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTIC
  114
  115
                                                            TO WS-STATUS
  116
  117
                                            TO WS-CHOICE
                            DISPLAY SS-CLS
  118
  119
                            ACCEPT SS-MENU
  120
                            EVALUATE
                                                                               NS-STATUS
                                                                              "CHOOSE AN OPTION"
                                 WHEN E-INCLUDE
  121
  122
                                      PERFORM 002-INCLUDE THRU 002
  /codigo_C/cobgdb2/customer.cob
           variable
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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#### 2.6. Variable Command

Type the **V** command (key) to display the list of all program variables:

```
| Debugging | Debu
```

#### 2.6.1.Enter subCommand

Scroll with cursor key UP and DOWN (or with mouse wheel) in this list to the variable WS-MODULE and type Enter: the application opens and displays its subfields WS-MODULE and WS-OP

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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#### select WS-MODULE subfield

```
COBGDB - (R) return (ENTER) expand/contract (E) edit var

RETURN-CODE: 0
+FILE1 Record: "
-WS-MODULE: "CUSTOMERS - MENU "
WS-MODULE: "CUSTOMERS - MENU "
WS-OP: "MENU "
+WS-CHOICE: "
+FS-STAT: "99"
+WS-ERROR: "
+WS_NUMR: "024"
+WS-NUMC012: "080"
+BACK-COLOR: "1"
+FRONT-COLOR: "6"
+WS-STATUS: "Example of variable editing "
+WS-ERRMSG: "
+SS-CLS: " CUSTOMERS - CONSULT ESC TO EXIT "
+SS-MENU: "1 - INCLUDE2 - CONSULT3 - UPDATE4 - DELETEX - EXITCHOICE: 2"
+SS-RECORD-SCREEN: "PHONE: NAME:
+SS-ERROR: "
+COB-CRT-STATUS: "2005"
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
GC-901	GC-XXXXXX	Author: Eugenio Di Lorenzo	18	

#### 2.6.2. Edit subCommand

Now you can select WS-MODULE subfield whit cursor DOWN or mouse wheel and type "**E**" (Edit) COBGDB shows a Edit Variable window:

```
III D:\codigo C\cobqdb2\cobqdb.exe
 COBGDB - (R)return (ENTER)expand/contract (E)edit var
 RETURN-CODE: 0
+FILE1 Record: "
-WS-MODULE: "CUSTOMERS - MENU
               <sub>「</sub>Edit Variable
                 WS-MODULE: CUSTOMERS -
 +WS-CHOI
 +FS-STAT: "99"
 +WS-ERROR: " "
+WS_NUMR: "024"
 +WS_NUMR: 024
+WS-NUMC012: "080"
+BACK-COLOR: "1"
+FRONT-COLOR: "6"
+WS-STATUS: "Example of variable editing
 +WS-STATUS: "Example of variable editing "
+WS-ERRMSG: "
+SS-CLS: " CUSTOMERS - CONSULT ESC TO EXIT
+SS-MENU: "1 - INCLUDE2 - CONSULT3 - UPDATE4 - DELETEX - EXITCHOICE: 2"
 +SS-RECORD-SCREEN:
+SS-ERROR: "
                                     PHONE:
                                                                       NAME:
 +COB-CRT-STATUS: "2005"
Debugging
```

Change "CUSTOMERS" to "TEST" and type Enter to change the value (use ESC to exit without changes):

```
COBGDB - (R) return (ENTER) expand/contract (E) edit var

RETURN-CODE: 0

+FILE1 Record: "
-WS-MODULE: "CUSTOMERS - MENU "

WS-MODULE: "Edit Variable—
WS-OP: WS-OP: WS-OP: WS-MODULE: TEST - MENU

+WS-CHOI

+FS-STAT: "99"
+WS-ERROR: ""
+WS-NUMR: "024"
+WS-NUMC012: "080"
+BACK-COLOR: "1"
+FRONT-COLOR: "6"
+WS-STATUS: "Example of variable editing "
+WS-ERRMSG: "
+SS-CLS: " CUSTOMERS - CONSULT ESC TO EXIT "
+SS-MENU: "1 - INCLUDE2 - CONSULT3 - UPDATE4 - DELETEX - EXITCHOICE: 2"
+SS-ERROR: "
+COB-CRT-STATUS: "2005"
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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#### 2.6.3. Return subCommand

WS-Module has new value.

Now type "**R**" (Return) to go back to the debugging session:

```
COBGDB - (R) return (ENTER) expand/contract (E) edit var

RETURN-CODE: 0
+FILE1 Record: "
-WS-MODULE: "TEST - MENU "
WS-MODULE: "TEST - MENU "
+WS-CHOICE: "
+FS-STAT: "99"
+WS-ERROR: "
+WS-NUMR: "024"
+WS-NUMR: "024"
+WS-NUMC012: "080"
+BACK-COLOR: "1"
+FRONT-COLOR: "6"
+WS-STATUS: "Example of variable editing "
+WS-CRMSG: "
+SS-CLS: " CUSTOMERS - CONSULT ESC TO EXIT "
+SS-MENU: "1 - INCLUDE2 - CONSULT3 - UPDATE4 - DELETEX - EXITCHOICE: 2"
+SS-ERROR: "
+COB-CRT-STATUS: "2005"
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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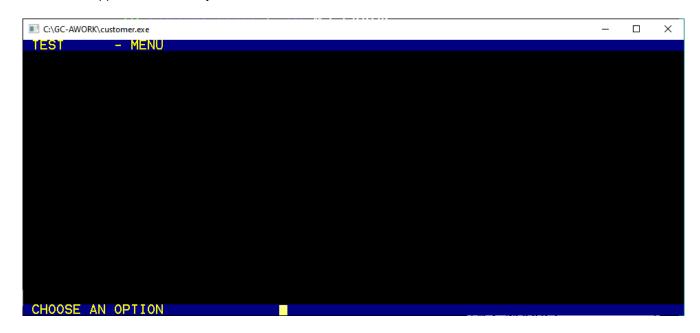
# 2.7. Step Command

now you are back in the main debugging window:

Type **S** (Step) command or left click with mouse the button to execute the DISPLAY statement at line 116

```
COBGDB
                                 GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
 100
                           10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 101
 102
                                                                             -WS-MODULE-
"TEST
 103
                001-START.
                                            'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS
                                                                                              - MENU"
 104
                                            'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" ws-STATUS
 105
 106
                                           USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80"
 107
                      *>CALL
 108
                                                                             109
                      ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
                               WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STA
 110
                     PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS
 111
 112
 113
 114
                                             WS-CHOICE
 115
116
                           DISPLAY SS-CLS
 117
                           ACCEPT SS-MENU
 118
 119
                           EVALUATE TRUE
                                WHEN E-INCLUDE
 /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
```

in the other application window you can see the result of DISPLAY statement



go back to debugging window and now the ACCEPT statement will be executed with S command

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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Type **S** (Step) command or leftclick with mouse the button again to execute ACCEPT statement at line 117:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
COBGDB
                                GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
                           10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 100
                                                                                     WS-CHOICE
 102
                                                                            -WS-MODULE
 103
                001-START.
                                          'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-ST
USING "mode con: lines
                                                                            "TEST
                                                                                           - MENU"
 104
 105
 106
 107
                      *>CALL
 108
                              WS_NUMR FROM LINES
WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STA
                                                                           109
 110
 111
                     PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
                     PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
 112
 113
                                 "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS *> WS-STATUS
 114
                                 SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
 115
 116
                           DISPLAY SS-CLS
 117
                            CCEPT SS-MENU
 118
                           EVALUATE TRUE
 119
  120
                                WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
```

A red ! quotation mark appears on the line 1117. This means that application is running and a user action is required at application window.

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
COBGDB
                                  GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  100
                            10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  101
  102
                 PROCEDURE DIVISION.
                 001-START.
 103
                                             'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
  104
  105
  106
                                                      chcp 437
                                             USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  107
  108
  109
                       ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
  110
                       ACCEPT WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  111
                      PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
                      PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT

MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP

MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS

MOVE SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
  112
  113
  114
  115
  116
                            DISPLAY SS-CLS
  117
                             ACCEPT SS-MENU
  118
  119
                            EVALUATE TRUE
  120
                                 WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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The application is running in a separate window.

The 'Accept' command switches the focus to application windows.

After a user action on application screen (ex type the "X" choice and Enter) it is necessary to click again on the 'debugger' window to continue debugging.



go back to debugger window: the ACCEPT statement has been executed:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                                                                                                         COBGDB
                                  GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  100
                             10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  101
  102
                 001-START.
 103
                                             'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
  104
  105
  106
                                             USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *>
  107
                       *>CALL
  108
                                                                                           WS-CHOICE
"X"
  109
                       ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
                       ACCEPT WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  110
                       PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS
  111
  112
  113
  114
  115
                                   SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
  116
                                        SS-CLS
  117
                                      SS-MENU
  118
  119
                                  WHEN E-INCLUDE
  120
       -AWORK/customer.cob
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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# 2.8. Pop-up Variable windows

During a debugging session COBGDB shows variable content. Blue frame and values: variables of executing cobol statement Black frame and values: variables of last executed cobol statement.

# Sample:

```
COBGDB

COBGDB

Continue after 0.5 seconds

Continue.

Continue.
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
GC-901	GC-XXXXXX	Author: Eugenio Di Lorenzo	24	

#### 2.9. File Command

To show this command we use following sample:

# cobgdb sample.cbl subsample.cbl subsubsample.cbl -x -lpdcurses

where sample.cbl is the main program; it calls
--> subsample.cbl; it calls
--> subsubsample.cbl

Source code is at https://github.com/marcsosduma/cobgdb/tree/main/resources. This will create a single sample.exe executable.

This example shows that when you need to debug only subsample.cbl or only subsubsample.cbl you need to execute COBGDB with all three programs.

COBGDB sets the B breakpoint at first executable statement of first program "sample.cbl". here use the R Run command to start the debugging session.

```
Prompt dei comandi - q4
                                                                                                                 COBGDB
                                     GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
                     WS-NUMERIC PIC 9(2) VALUE
  5
6
7
8
9
                 01 WS-SIGNED-DECIMAL PIC S9(3)V9(2) VALUE -123.45.
                 01 WS-UNSIGNED-DECIMAL PIC 9(3)V9(2) VALUE 123.45.
01 WS-ALPHABETIC PIC A(6) VALUE 'ABCDEF'.
01 WS-ALPHANUMERIC PIC X(5) VALUE 'A121$'.
  10
                 01 WS-GROUP.
  11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
                          05 WS-GROUP-NUMERIC PIC 9(2) VALUE 45.
                          05 WS-GROUP-SIGNED-DECIMAL PIC S9(3)V9(2) VALUE -123.45.
                          05 WS-GROUP-UNSIGNED-DECIMAL PIC 9(3)V9(2) VALUE 123.45.
05 WS-GROUP-ALPHABETIC PIC A(6) VALUE 'ABCDEF'.
05 WS-GROUP-ALPHANUMERIC PIC X(5) VALUE 'A121$'.
                          CHECK PIC 9(2).
88 WS-CHECK-LITTLE VALUES ARE 50 THRU 99.
                 01 WS-CHECK PI
                          88 WS-CHECK-BIG VALUES ARE 00 THRU 49.
  19
 20
21
                                                 USING BY CONTENT WS-GROUP
  22
23
24
                       END-CALL.
DISPLAY "World"
                       STOP RUN.
 :/GC-AWORK/sample.cbl
bebugging
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
GC-901	GC-XXXXXX	Author: Eugenio Di Lorenzo	25	

Now you can type the **F File** command and you will have the "Source Files" window. In this sample we select the second program in the list (subsample.cbl) and type Enter.

```
Prompt dei comandi - q4
                                                                                                                                                    GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter PIC 9(2) VALUE 45.
 COBGDB
                            WS-NUMERIC PIC
   5
6
7
8
                      01 WS-SIGNED-DECIMAL PIC S9(3)V9(2) VALUE -123.45.
01 WS-UNSIGNED-DECIMAL PIC 9(3)V9(2) VALUE 123.45.
01 WS-ALPHABETIC PIC A(6) VALUE 'ABCDEF'.
01 WS-ALPHANUMERIC PIC X(5) VALUE 'A121$'.
   10
                 -Source Files
   \overline{11}
                 C:/GC-AWORK/sample.cbl
  12
13
14
15
16
                                                                                                                                            .45.
.45.
                 C:/GC-AWORK/subsubsample.cbl
  17
18
19
20
21
22
23
                              END-CALL.
DISPLAY "World"
                               STOP RUN.
   /GC-AWORK/sample.cbl
Debugging
```

COBGDB shows the selected program source code where in this sample we type a B command at line 14.

```
Prompt dei comandi - q4
                                                                                                                   GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
COBGDB
                 PROGRAM-ID. subsample. ENVIRONMENT DIVISION.
 2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
                 01 WS-GROUP.
                          05 WS-GROUP-NUMERIC PIC 9(2).
                          05 WS-GROUP-SIGNED-DECIMAL PIC S9(3)V9(2).
05 WS-GROUP-UNSIGNED-DECIMAL PIC 9(3)V9(2).
05 WS-GROUP-ALPHABETIC PIC A(6).
05 WS-GROUP-ALPHANUMERIC PIC X(5).
  11
  12
  13
                                               USING WS-GROUP.
  14
                        DISPLAY WS-GROUP-ALPHABETION
  15
                        CALL 'subsubsample' USING BY CONTENT WS-GROUP
  16
                        END-CALL.
  17
18
                 END PROGRAM subsample.
 :/GC-AWORK/subsample.cbl
preakpoint
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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now we type the F command again, then select the "sample.cbl" program and press Enter

```
П
Prompt dei comandi - q4
COBGDB
                               GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
              IDENTIFICATION DIVISION. PROGRAM-ID. subsample.
 2
 4
 5
6
7
8
              WORKING-STORAGE SECTION.
          Source Files
          C:/GC-AWORK/subsample.cbl
 9
          C:/GC-AWORK/subsubsample.cbl
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 :/GC-AWORK/subsample.cbl
```

now we are back to the sample.cbl program to continue the debugging session as we need.

```
Prompt dei comandi - q4
COBGDB
                                              GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
                     01 WS-NUMERIC PIC 9(2) VALUE 45.
01 WS-SIGNED-DECIMAL PIC S9(3)V9(2) VALUE -123.45.
01 WS-UNSIGNED-DECIMAL PIC 9(3)V9(2) VALUE 123.45.
01 WS-ALPHABETIC PIC A(6) VALUE 'ABCDEF'.
01 WS-ALPHANUMERIC PIC X(5) VALUE 'A121$'.
  6
  8
  9
  10
                     01 WS-GROUP.
                                 05 WS-GROUP-NUMERIC PIC 9(2) VALUE 45.
05 WS-GROUP-SIGNED-DECIMAL PIC S9(3)V9(2) VALUE -123.45.
  11
  12
13
                                05 WS-GROUP-UNSIGNED-DECIMAL PIC 9(3)V9(2) VALUE 123.45.
05 WS-GROUP-ALPHABETIC PIC A(6) VALUE 'ABCDEF'.
05 WS-GROUP-ALPHANUMERIC PIC X(5) VALUE 'A121$'.
  14
15
                                 CHECK PIC 9(2).
88 WS-CHECK-LITTLE VALUES ARE 50 THRU 99.
  16
                     01 WS-CHECK
  17
  18
                                 88 WS-CHECK-BIG VALUES ARE 00 THRU 49.
  19
 >20
21
22
23
24
                             CALL SEND-CALL.
END-CALL.
"World"
                             CALL 'subsample'
                                                            USING BY CONTENT WS-GROUP
 :/GC-AWORK/sample.cbl
Debugging
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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#### 2.10. Run Command

If you click the Run command during a debug session you will receive a confirmation request, because Yes will restart a new the debugging session from first Procedure Division executable statement:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                                                                                                  COBGDB
                                GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
                                                                                               ↑ ■ ?
                                                                                       ▶ →
 100
                           10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 101
 102
 103
                001-START.
                                          'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
 104
 105
 106
 107
 108
              -Message-
 109
               Would you like to "Run<u>" the program again</u> ? (= Restart)
 110
                                             Yes
 111
                     PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT

MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP

MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS
 112
 113
 114
 115
                          MOVE SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
                                                                                   -WS-NUMC012-
 116
                                     SS-CLS
                                                                                                  0
 117
                           ACCEPT SS-MENU
 118
                                                                                       -WS_NUMR-
 119
                           EVALUATE TRUE
                                                                                                 25
                                WHEN E-INCLUDE
  120
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
```

Note: if program has DECLARATIVES then the first automatic B Breakpoint will be settled at first executable PROCEDURE DIVISION statement that is the one after END DECLARATIVES, see following sample:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q1
COBGDB
                            GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
 310
                           TO w-flag
 311
             ELSE
                MOVE "N " TO w-flag
 312
 313
             END-IF
 314
        ELSE
             DISPLAY "Error " w-fsRep " on REPORT FILE "
 315
 316
 317
        END-IF.
 318 ex-err-Rep-x. EXIT
 319
 320
 321
 322
323
 324
      MAIN1 SECTION.
 325
      MAIN-LOOP.
 326
        perform InitialSettings thru InitialSettingsEx
 327
 328
        PERFORM UNTIL WCRT-STATUS = K-ESCAPE
 329
             DISPLAY screen-menu
                      screen-menu
  ^\primeGC-AWORK^\primeMASTER.cob
ebugging
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
GC-901	GC-XXXXXX	Author: Eugenio Di Lorenzo	28	

#### 2.11. Window Size command

When you start a debugging session, the screen size is 24 x 80 columns.

```
×
Prompt dei comandi - z1
                                                                                       COBGDB
                             GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
 703
704
705
706
            EVALUATE TRUE
                 WHEN PLAYER-TURN =
 707
 708
                                                        W-X-VAR U-CNT
 709
710
711
                                       INP-Y-VAR
                                                        W-Y-POS(U-CNT)
                                                        >= 16
                                       U-CNT
                                                                       WS-COUNTERS
                                                                       "9170400000000000"
                   COORDINATES
                  "051508wKY041208wQY010308wRY082408wRY020608wHY072108wHY03090
                           NDD 1 TO U-CNT
                      END-PERFORM EVALUATE TRUE
```

Type **W** (Window Size) command to switch between two window size of the debugger: 24 x 80 or 34 x 132.

```
COBGOB

GNUCOBOL GDB Interpreter

COBGOB

MOVE 1 TO U-CNT

704

*> EVALUATE TRUE

706

EVALUATE TRUE

707

708

AND INP-Y-VAR = W-Y-POS(U-CNT)

709

AND INP-Y-VAR = 2560

710

711

712

*> DEBUG

713

*> Display W-X-VAR(U-CNT) at 2260

714

*> display INP-Y-VAR at 2260

715

*> display INP-Y-VAR at 2260

716

*> display INP-Y-VAR at 2260

717

717

*> DISPLAY U-CNT at 2260

718

*> accept omitted

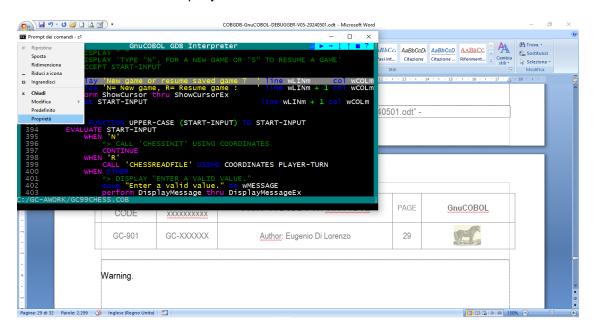
*> accept o
```

This can be very useful if you write GnuCOBOL code with the new FREE FORMAT source option where each line of code can be longer than the classic 80 characters of FIXED FORMAT.

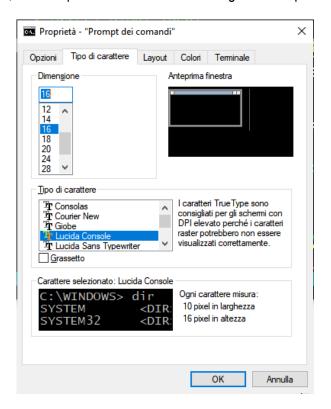
DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
GC-901	GC-XXXXXX	Author: Eugenio Di Lorenzo	29	

# Warning.

Make sure the font size is not too large otherwise the W command cannot display the 132 columns. For a Windows environment use "Property" menu item:



and then select a suitable font, for example Lucida Console of 16 might be adequate.



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#### 2.12. Quit Command

To close the debug session use the **Q** Quit command or left click with mouse the **b**utton

```
\times
Prompt dei comandi
                                                                                                                 103
                   001-START.
  104
                                                  COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS
  105
  106
                                                           "chcp 437"
                                                 USING "
  107
  108
  109
                          ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINE
                         ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES

ACCEPT WS-NUMCO12 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STAT

PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES

PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT

MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP

MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS
  110
                                                            COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  111
  112
  113
  114
                                                  TO WS-CHOICE
  115
                                                                                                 -WS-NUMC012-
                               DISPLAY SS-CLS
                                                                                                                  0
  116
  117
                               ACCEPT SS-MENU
  118
                               EVALUATE TRUE
WHEN E-INCLUDE
  119
  120
  :/GC-AWORK/customer.cob
The end of the COBGDB execution.
C:\GC-AWORK>
```

#### 2.13. COBGDB Version

Use command option: cobgdb --version

to display COBGDB version informations as follows:

```
COBGDB - GnuCobol GDB Interpreter - version 1.1.0
Copyright (C) 2013 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <a href="http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html">http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html</a>
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
This COBGDB was configured as "MinGW32".
For bug reporting instructions, please see:
<a href="https://github.com/marcsosduma/cobgdb">https://github.com/marcsosduma/cobgdb</a>.
The end of the COBGDB execution.
```

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# 3. Document Change Log

# **CHANGE LOG**

#### Version 1 of 2023.12.12.

First release

# . Version 2 of 2023.12.23.

Step by Step sample of use is added Some minor changes

#### . Version 3 of 2024.02.18.

Restructured showing new cobgdb screens and features

#### . Version 4 of 2024.04.01 and 20240403.

Added EDIT subcommand at H Show Command when viewing the variable from a line of code Added cobgdb --version option

### . Version 5 of 2024.05.01.

Added the W Window size command to change User interface screen size

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# Technical info

